UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25749
11 May 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 10 MAY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to submit, enclosed herewith, a copy of the letter by the President of the Republic of Croatia, Dr. Franjo Tudjman, addressed to the President of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Alija Izetbegovic, and to the President of the Croatian Community of Herzeg-Bosna, Mr. Mate Boban.

I would be grateful if you would provide for the distribution of this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 10 May 1993 from the President of the Republic of Croatia addressed to the President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to Mr. Mate Boban

Alarmed and deeply concerned about the renewed widening of conflicts between Croats and Muslims in certain parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina, I wish to appeal to you with the following

MESSAGE

After thorough and open talks on the night of 24/25 April 1993 in Zagreb you signed the Joint Statement on the removal of any misunderstandings between Croats and Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the formation of a joint command of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina and HVO (Croatian Defence Council), a document co-signed by your subordinate Generals Sefer Halilović and Milivoj Petković.

This agreement was also co-signed by myself as a witness in presence of the Co-Chairman of the Conference on the Former Yugoslavia Lord David Owen.

These conflicts did indeed cease in the days following the signing of the statement, but then they again worsened in alarming proportions, and if they continue, they may provoke tragic consequences for both peoples and play into the hands of no one other than the Serbian aggressor.

Since then Croatia has already taken some steps in an attempt to prevent further conflicts:

1. The Croatian Parliament assigned to Bosnia-Herzegovina a multi-party parliamentary delegation, which has as yet not been enabled to visit the crisis areas;

2. During my recent visit to Turkey we reached an agreement to send to Bosnia-Herzegovina a joint Turkish-Croatian governmental delegation which will embark in the next days on a mission of goodwill to calm the conflicts and restore mutual trust;

3. Yesterday, 9 March 1993, I agreed with Mr. Šefko Omerbašić, President of the Meshihat of the Islamic Community of Croatia and Slovenia, that he join the group of Croatian representatives and go to Bosnia-Herzegovina, also with the task to act in the interest of the establishment of peace and cooperation between Croats and Muslims.

I also wish to remind you of the cooperation agreements between Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina signed in Zagreb on 21 July 1992 and in New York on 21 September 1992 in which we agreed on our viewpoints in relation to the struggle against the Serbian aggressor assisted by the former Yugoslav Army.

I strongly condemn the armed conflicts between Croats and Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, irrespective of which party has caused them.

I call upon you to do your utmost in order to put an end to these conflicts, to ensure cooperation between Muslim and Croatian forces, i.e., between the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina and HVO in their joint struggle against the Serbian aggressor and the creation of preconditions for the peace action by the international community to be feasible and successful.

In particular I appeal to all Muslims offered protection and asylum in Croatia during this aggression to influence their compatriots to refrain from any conflicts with Croats and to ensure their mutual cooperation. I also call upon all Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina not to allow themselves to be fooled by provocations and to do their best to avoid this highly detrimental conflict.

Once again I appeal to you to immediately order all your commanders and units to end all conflicts without any delay and to start cooperation in the spirit of the agreements and statements already signed.

President

(Signed) Dr. Franjo TUDJMAN